Form H.—97.—100,000.—23-5-46.

1947

(1947) Department.

Press SERIES.

G.O. No. 5420

Dated 21/7/47

[Despatch Abstract.]

Factories - Factories Act and allied Acts - Administration Report, 1946 - Recorded.

	Number of factories.		
	Upto the end of 1945.	During 1946.	Total upto end of 1946.
Housing accommodation.	100	18	118.
Schools.	28	6	34.
Co-operative Societies and Stores.	66	2	68
Canteens.	87	11	98.
Savings Schemes.	54	..	54.
Medical facilities other than that first aid.	116	9	125.
Creaches.	17	..	17.
Recreation Clubs.	23	1	24.

Bonus ranging from 15 days to 4 months wages was paid to the workers by 25 factories. The Madura Mills Company Limited, Madur spent large sums of money for improving the roads, extending the water supply and drainage schemes in the workers' colony and lighting the roads. This Company also supplied the workers with one third class Railway Season ticket free per house to attend the mills. Some factories supplied tea free to night shift workers. Rockwood Estate, Nellakotta gave free meals to workers at noon and also sold rice to the workers at 8 measures per rupee.

The importance of canteens in industry seems to have been recognised by many factories and canteens either at 'no profit' basis or at 'loss' were run by the management for the benefit of the workers.

Wages:- There has generally been a rise in the average earnings of workers of all classes. This increase however does not seem to be uniform either for the class of industry or for the locality.,

Strikes:- There has been a large increase in the number of strikes during the year than the two preceding years. There were 152 strikes in 1946 as against 45 and 31 in 1945 and 1944 respectively. Of these 37 were either successful or partially successful from the point of view of the workers. Mostof the strikes were however of short duration. In 45 cases, the officers of the Labour Department intervened and brought about settlement. The total number of man-days lost due to strikes was about 430,000.

Fires:- Though there were 36 cases of fire during the year, the damage to property amounted to only Rs. 66,000/- of which Rs. 16,500 were covered by insurance.

Accidents:-There were 5481 accidents in 1946 as against 5526 in 1945. Textile Mills and Railway Workshops have reported the largest number of accidents and this is attributed to large number of unskilled workers who have not acquired a safety-first consciousness.

Prosecutions:- 151 persons were prosecuted during the year which is slightly less than that of the previous year.

Maternity Benefits:- The average number of women employed daily in 1893 factories from which returns were received was 50,059 as against 49,110 in the previous year. 2888 claims were made in 1946 as against 2184 in the year 1945 of which 2428 claims were paid to the women concerned and 24 cases to their nominees. The total amount of benefits paid wasRs. 84,211 against Rs. 47,836 in 1945.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Abstract.

Factories - Factories Act and allied Acts - Administration Report, 19
Recorded.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

G.O. Ms. No. Press. 5420. Dated 21st November 1947.

Read:-

From the Commissioner of Labour, No. B. 3750/47 dated 24.9.1947.

rder:-

Recorded.

2. A copy of the Memorandum reviewing the report is enclosed.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor).

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To

The Commissioner of Labour.
The Public (Information & Publicity) Department.
The Superintendent, Government Press.

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MEMORANDUM.

Sub:- Factories - Factories and allied Acts - Administration Report for the year 1946.

The report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, on the working of the Factories Act in this Province for the year 1946 shows that there were 3554 factories at the end of the year as against 3217 at the end of 1945. The average number of workers employed daily in 2868 factories which submitted the returns in time was 2,62,292 as against 2,79,176 in 1945. The decrease in the number of workers in 1946 is due to the non-receipt of returns from 581 factories. The Government consider that it is necessary that returns should be obtained in time from all the factories. The Chief Inspector of Factories is therefore requested to take action against the managements, of factories that have not submitted the returns in time and report the result to Government.

Inspection:- The number of inspections made during the year was 6126, as against 6413 in the previous year. Except 214 all factories were inspected. With the recent strengthening of the factory inspectorate, it should be possible in future to have all factories inspected at least once in a year.

Welfare:- Health of the workers was generally good. Factory premises and surroundings were kept fairly clean. The following table shows the details of housing accommodation and other facilities provided by the factories for workers upto the end of 1946.

NUMBER OF FACTORIES.

The Assistant Inspectress of Factories, Coimbatore made 50 inspections during the year. As she was deputed for training in the United Kingdom in 1946, she could not make more visits. During the year 13 prosecutions were instituted for failure to maintain registers and for not exhibiting the notices required under the Act.

Employment of Children Act:- The number of establishments covered by the Act that submitted the notice under section 3-B ó wa 120. In certain establishments children below 12 years were found employed and in these cases the inspecting officers warned the employers.

Weekly holidays:- Sundays or substituted days were observed as holidays in 2680 factories. 227 factories were exempt from the provisions of section 35.

Exemptions:-Rice Mills in the large rice producing district of the Province were exempted under section 44(2) of the Act for 2 months at a time. Sugar factories in the Province were also exempted from section 34 of the Act. In 633 factories, chiefly rice mills, textile mills and oil and groundnut decorticating factories, work was carried on by a system of multiple and overlapping shifts.

Statistics of period of sickness of workers:- The number of man-days lost due to sickness in 1946 is about 13 lakhs which is slightly less than that of the previous year.

Industrial Statistics Act:- The Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories who has been notified as Statistics Authority for this Province, administered the Act and Rules made thereunder. One Superintendent and 3 clerks were appointed for work connected with the census.

Voluntary returns for the year 1944 and 45 were collected from about 50% of the occupiers of factories notices have been served for furnishing the returns for 1946 and 1947.

With a view to extend the scope of the census to all industries, draft amendments have been issued to the C.M.I. Rules. There was a conference of the Statistics Authorities during the year in Delhi and the S.A. of this Province attended the Conference.

General:-706 plans of factory buildings proposed for construction or extensions were scrutinised in 1946 as against 527 in 1945. Certain sections of the Act relating to hours of work were amended during the year, reducing the maximum weekly hours of work for adults from 54 to 48 in perennial factories and 60-50 in seasonal factories. The rate of overtime pay was also raised to twice the ordinary rate. Rules were also framed to regulate the grant of compensatory holidays and holidays with pay.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Development Department.

Letter/Reference No. 38661/P.IV/47-5.

From

Sri. K.G. Menon, I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To

1. The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Labour, New Delhi.

2. The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Industries and Supplies, New Delhi.

3. The Director of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics,
Calcutta.

Dated, Fort St. George, the 7th February 1948.

Sir,

Sub:- Factories - Administration Report - 1946.

I am directed to forward a copy of the report on the working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras during the year 1946, with a copy of the proceedings of this Government No. (Press) 5420 dated 21.11.1947 reviewing the report.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) K.G. Menon,
Joint Secretary to Govt.

....

/True copy/

7/5/54
Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s.

6/5/54